

ABSTRACT

A rotary encoder has housing case provided with common electrode and signal electrode disposed to an area narrower than the entire circumference, or an angular range of generally 1/2 of the circumference in concentric with central hole of housing case, and sliding contact in a confronting manner to the electrodes, the sliding contact provided with four combinations of contact points arranged at four equally divided angular positions, or every 90 degrees along the same circumference about the rotary axis, each of the combinations comprises contact point on inner side for connectively sliding on common electrode and two contact points on outer side for connectively sliding on signal electrode. The rotary encoder of this structure can reduce the cost by decreasing a width of material needed for fabrication of electrodes, and decrease distances for contact points to slide on electrodes, to thereby improve durability to sliding abrasion.

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